

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

AREA UNDER CROP, 1950-51.

When the annual farm statistics were being collected last autumn, farmers were asked to indicate the areas that they intended to sow with wheat, barley and oats for all purposes (for grain, hay or feeding off) for this coming season.

During the last few weeks, particulars of their actual sowings have been obtained from a number of farmers in all districts of the State and whose areas under crop represent over 40% of the total area under crop. These actual sowings were compared with the areas intended for sowing by the same farmers and the comparative figures obtained indicate that the areas actually sown varied only slightly from that which had been intended and the estimated totals given below are based on this experience.

The following statement gives the comparison of the total areas for certain specified seasons. The total area under wheat, barley and oats had declined from 1946-47 to 1949-50 but an increase is expected for 1950-51. It is noted that the area under wheat is continuing to decline but increased areas are expected for barley and oats. The expected barley area is the highest yet recorded.

Seasons	Wheat Acres		Barley Acres		Oats Acres		Total Acres	
1930-31	4,507,213	a	267,369		519,300		5,293,882	a
1939-40	2,948,110		558,559		834,793	b	4,341,462	
1943-44	1,675,778	c	304,382	c	558,065		2,538,225	c
1944-45	1,850,682		402,700		664,436		2,917,818	
1945-46	2,407,253		479,384		686,128		3,572,765	
1946-47	2,662,150		520,027		485,736	d	3,667,913	
1947-48	2,486,505		580,682		559,931		3,627,118	
1948-49	2,159,218		728,398		622,588		3,510,204	
1949-50	2,005,097		722,080		623,628		3,350,805	
1950-51 Intended	1,955,000		775,000		725,000		3,455,000	
Estimated Sown	1,950,000		780,000	e	730,000		3,460,000	

The areas sown in 1949-50 were harvested as follows:-

Grain	1,896,719	694,601	261,232	2,852,552
Hay	98,267	3,194	145,091	246,552
Fed Off	10,111	24,285	217,305	251,701

- Notes:
- Maximum area for wheat and for the total.
 - Maximum area for oats.
 - Lowest areas for wheat and barley in recent years and for the total.
 - Lowest area for oats in recent years.
 - Maximum area for barley.